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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY RumaniaSUBJECT Vasile Roaita Shops/Location/Description/  
Production/Personnel, etc.

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Location and General Information

1. "The Vasile Roaita Shops, one of the largest in the Rumanian People's Republic, is located at 25 Zidul Mosi Street, opposite Halele Obor, in East Bucharest. The group of buildings is spread over a rather large area which stretches in a southwesterly - northeasterly direction, facing Ziduri Moli Street, bordered on the left by Principesa Maria Street [its present name is unknown], and on the right by the Gradina Heliole Public Gardens. The buildings are close to the Obor Station in Bucharest and are linked to the marshalling yards of the station by a special track. The entire area in which the Vasile Roaita Shops are located is in the process of becoming a factory and working district. Formerly it was the quarter (comparable to the Central Markets in Paris) of markets for the sale of agricultural products from the Province of Bucharest; there were also empty lots used by ox-carts and trucks selling vegetables, fruit or chickens. Since this trading is now (1952) practically non-existent, there will be a substantial change in the appearance of the area. The Obor markets have been razed and replaced by a public garden. (Moreover, vegetables and poultry are so rarely to be seen in Bucharest, that it would be useless to maintain the large markets.)
2. "Vasile Roaita is not the most important production group in Bucharest, but is among the first three or four, which can be easily established by the parades of 1 May, or 23 August (the 'Day of Liberation'). Parades are conducted according to a strictly determined order: at the head marches the factory which has surpassed its production plan by the most. (It is not always the 23 August Factory, or the railroad workers of the Complexul CFR Grivita Rosie, but sometimes another enterprise.) Vasile Roaita always enjoys third or fourth place. This is based on production realizations and the number of workers employed in the enterprise.

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3. "The Vasile Roaita Works (named by the Communists after one of their number), is, in part, a creation of the new regime. But the foundation and largest part of the factory existed previously as Intreprinderile Metalurgice Dumitru Voinea, a plant which produced agricultural machinery, mill machinery, mixers, mechanical hammers, scales, silos and various forged articles. The railroad line was introduced into the factory yard in 1916, during German occupation, to facilitate shipping. In July 1946, the Dumitru Voinea Metallurgical Industries were nationalized, and came under the direction of the Committee on Industry. At the same time another smaller factory, on the same grounds as the Dumitru Voinea Industry, was nationalized. This one belonged to a Greek named [fnu] Trikoraki. It was a small furniture and woodworking business, separated from the Voinea by a low wall. This small business added into the present complex from the point of view of wood-working. The owner of the whole area had been [fnu] Liade, whose land was taken from him, but whom the Communists have allowed to work in the shops repairing watches and clocks. He receives a very low wage.

4. "On the north, the shops are bordered by the Electrical Equipment Factory, Andrei Prot (Fabrica de Aparataj Electrici A.P.), from which they are separated by a fence. There is no communication between the factories, and the fence may not be crossed, under threat of punishment."

Following is a detailed description of the Vasile Roaita Shops. The numbers of each building correspond to those on a sketch map [See Enclosure (A)], to which a basic legend, without details, has been attached.

5. "No. 1. The Accounting Department of Vasile Roaita. There were two floors of offices for this department, but the offices were changed very frequently. This is where production hours and wages estimates were made, in accordance with tables received from the Ministry. The Chief Accountant is a Jew named [fnu] Grunstein.

No. 2. The dairy (laptaria), in a shed. The Committee on Industry started milk distribution here for the workmen who were doing the casting. The fontisti received 1/2 kilogram of fresh milk daily, even if they were very highly paid, for it was said to be absolutely necessary for this category of workmen to drink that much milk daily. Later the system was abandoned due to the introduction of a theory preferring the need for carbonic acid for the fontisti. ~~So~~ one of the workers installed a little soda shop in this shed, and now the fontisti obligatorily drink three or four glasses of soda water every day - gratis. Milk is still available, but it must be bought.

[ ] the Americans had made pills which condense a whole meal into a small pellet, and that these were healthy, good meals. In meetings we were told that the corn sent to Rumania by the US during the famine of 1946-1947 was so bad and spoiled that 'not even the pigs were able to eat it', and that in the US nothing was good. The workers did not believe this propaganda.)

No. 3. The garage building. The shops owned three Opel type trucks and two Chevrolet passenger cars. The trucks were small - rather like delivery trucks. All ~~other~~ vehicles were a heritage from the Dumitru Voinea days. No new truck or car had been brought to the factory, not even a Czechoslovak Skoda car some of which had been imported into Bucharest since 1948. At the side of the garage there is an artesian well with a pool, a green lawn, and some sand, where workers were permitted to stroll.

No. 4. The time-keeping office and the gate-keeper. Each worker, upon entering, must have his card checked to keep track of the hours he is present at the factory.

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No. 5. The time-keeping office for those who work 'in harmony' (en accord) [sic]. The militia is also located here. The militia, composing a part of the guard, appeared in all industrial organizations beginning in 1951. At Vasile Roaita there were six militiamen armed at all times with rifles. [REDACTED] if the rifles were loaded, but [REDACTED] they were. The 'group of militiamen', as they are called, always consists of six men who have a twelve-hour duty, after which they are relieved by another 'group'. The militia has a special room for resting.

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No. 6. The Chief Engineer. The technical staff which is at the disposition of the Chief Engineer, is on the second floor of this building, as is the Cadres office. The Cadres office concerns itself, among other things, with the military status of all workers. (Generally, it is the young men who go in there. [REDACTED] military status.

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[REDACTED] a foreign subject, and they said that they would refer [REDACTED] to the Ministry. Later they asked [REDACTED] would like to become a Rumanian citizen.) On the last floor, the third, of this building there is a large empty room with pictures of the chief Communists. Choir practice is held here, for the shops have a choral society.

No. 7. The Manager's office.

No. 8. The shop for heavy turners, (strungarie grea).

No. 9. The shop for precision turners, (strungarie fina). Before the Communists took control of the plant, this was the carpentry shop of the Dumitru Voinea works. There is a window along the wall. [REDACTED] during the World War II an American bomb fell into this room near the window, and killed three Soviet prisoners who were working in the factory.

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No. 10. Assembly shop (montaj) for threshing machines. Since 1951 the assembling of threshing machines has been replaced by the assembling of combines.

No. 11. The sanding shop. Machines manufactured at the factory are sand-cleaned here.

No. 12. The foundry (turnatoria).

No. 12 bis. This is a new building which did not exist at the time of the Dumitru Voinea factory. It is a foundry, which has, as well, equipment for assembly.

No. 13. The forge (fieraria).

No. 14. The tool shop (scularie). This is actually a turning shop, but very precise work is done on tools and machine parts.

No. 15. The press. This is still a part of the old factory forge.

No. 16. The washroom for workmen. There are showers, no tubs, and special rooms for women workers. It is well organized, and comes, naturally, from the Dumitru Voinea. Each worker, man or woman, had a small locker for his clothes and retained three soap from the factory. During the summer, showers could be taken at any hour of the day or night. But during the winter, there was one warm shower a week allowed.

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No. 16 bis. This is the pilot plant [REDACTED]

No. 17. Shops where all kinds of drive wheels (first floor) and wheels for threshing machines (second floor) are manufactured.

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No. 18. The factory fire department, set up prior to Communist control. This department has a motor pump for water, old equipment, and 20 men who work in three shifts. (There was a rather serious fire which destroyed the ceiling of the assembly shop (No. 10.) The fire was brought under control but since we were accused en masse of sabotage, without proof, we were obliged to pay for the damages: for the shops' belonged to us. We were called together, had the subject of damages presented to us, and were addressed as a group: 'Comrades! to whom does Vesile Roaita belong?' Many workers shouted: 'To us! The factory is ours!' 'Right!', they answered, 'then you all ought to make reparation'. Our wages were withheld in amounts varying from 5 to 10 percent until damages were paid.)

No. 19. The dispensary. This was well organized and equipped by Dumitru Voinea. There is an entrance room, and a waiting room outside of the consulting room, and a room with six beds for those not seriously ill.

No. 20. Here, left over from the old factory, there were two very large Diesel blocks which had their own electrical generators for the factory. In 1950, they were taken out and transported to the Danube-Black Sea Canal. I suppose they were installed in the great thermal power-house Ovidiu II, for which both Diesels would have been adequate. Electricity for the 'people's shops' was provided by a connection with the current from Bucharest. In 1952 there were four transformers, where two formerly had been, which received the high tension from Bucharest. One of the new transformers was a 2000-volt machine. Adjacent to these transformers, there is a building with a separate entrance, a chain shop with towers, and a section for assembling chains. [Apparently, this building is not separately indicated on the sketch/.

No. 21. The canteen. This is a rather old construction, but ventilated and clean. It was also used as a conference hall. If the conference was a routine affair, the wooden tables were not removed, as all of the workers did not attend at once. In special cases, which were frequent, the tables were taken out, and benches and chairs brought in.

No. 22. A ram for breaking castings (berbec de spart fonta). This consists of a platform, on three legs, which supports a weight (some 100 kilograms). Below, in line with the weight, the casting to be broken up is placed. The effectiveness of the operation is due not to the weight of the ram, but to the 15 meter height from which it falls.

Near No. 22. In the same yard there is a pile of rusted and bent scrap iron. This pile is always unprotected from the weather. It was used in smelting.

No. 23. Welding and assembling shop. Here plating is riveted on (se nituiesc placajele).

Under No. 23. Somehow hollowed out of the ground, is the storehouse (magazia), made of ordinary planks. Scrap iron, unserviceable objects, machines and tools which were not successful were stored here. The storehouse also had an office with a caretaker.

Above No. 23. (on the second floor) is the lock shop where work for the shops is done, but where large quantities of locks are produced on outside order as well.

Between No. 23. and the railroad is another building housing the cutting shop. Iron was cut here. [This shop is apparently not indicated on the sketch/

No. 24. (Ground floor) a garage for general repairs. Second floor: room where the militiamen of the factory guard lived. They were equipped with a searchlight so that they had a general view of the whole plant. They could see all movement in the streets as well. [This building is apparently not indicated on the sketch/ At No. 24, there is a gate which includes a small time-keeping room, which is no longer used, as the workers do not pass through that gate. Only carts carrying supplies pass by that gate which has a special guard.

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No. 25. Buildings of the Trikoraki factory. These are assembly and, particularly, carpentry shops and are in use (1952). The workers in these buildings use the main gate. Behind the buildings, the factory rail siding, tied in with the main rail lines from the Obor Station, enters the grounds. It has three separate branches to facilitate switching and the storing of cars bringing or taking away material. The track is standard gauge as it is throughout the country. Another narrow gauge railway, the property of the factory, runs through the interior of the yard. It had some small cars which ran between the foundry and the forge. Alongside the narrow gauge railway, there was an old locomotive which produced the steam for testing new machines manufactured at the factory.

Throughout the establishment there is a sentry box at each strategic corner where an armed guard sits. This place is called 'the Guard's Corner'. There are, in addition, small shops scattered here and there. For instance, the factory harness-maker (curclarul) worked in a small room over No. 8. He did jobs for the threshers and combines. In two rooms at the side, still on the second floor of No. 8, there were two administrative offices. [redacted] them and do not know what they are for. The Party Committee for the plant was located on the second floor of No. 8, and above the Committee's office was the office of the plant union.

#### Production

6. "Production at the Voinea plant and at Vasile Roaita when the Communists first took it over consisted of:

Threshers: two or three a month. This varied somewhat with demand

Automatic Scales:

"Scales of all kinds and sizes: production varied according to demand.

Platform scales for railroads, lumber yards, haying, etc. The manufacture of these machines was slowly reduced, then dropped.

Since nationalization, the shops no longer make scales, but threshing machines, combines and pumps are manufactured. About 40 threshing machines a month were turned out as of 1952. Their price was 35,000 new lei (700,000 lei before the monetary reform of January 1952). Threshing machines now function on electric current. They have a motor of 6 or 7 horsepower, and are connected with the power line. Vasile Roaita no longer produces locomotives for threshing grain because of the trend toward electrification of threshers.

7. "Combines had only recently begun to be manufactured at Vasile Roaita [redacted]

25X1X brought [redacted] In 1951, three or four Dutch combines and one Soviet combine were brought [redacted] as models. The engineers produced a 'local' one which rather resembled the Soviet combine. The plate Vasile Roaita RPR was put on finished combines, which were then sent, with much propaganda, into the fields of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes to harvest grain. The combine [redacted] are equipped with two discs with vanes (cu palete) which cause the ripe grain to lie down, and then cut them; they separate the stalks from the grain, so the stalks are thrown into a pile behind. The grain, separated and dusted, is finally siphoned off into suitable containers. Five minutes later, trucks arrive at the working place, load up and take away the grain.

8. "The pumps that are currently made (1952) are centrifugal pumps for mud; they are electrical pumps, sent, exclusively to the Danube-Black Sea Canal. [redacted]

25X1X made pumps with motors which were installed in place, and assembled either by a factory representative or by some other specialist under instructions from the factory.

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9. "The materials for these products came from various sources: the metal came from the great factories of Resita which are now called Sovrommetel Resita. All of the iron and steel was Rumanian. The bearings came, largely, from Italy for two or three of the early years. Actually, the Ministry bought them on the spot wherever it could. But now (1952) bearings are produced at Brasov (near Orasul Stalin) in a factory specially established by the Communist regime. In early 1952, there was a period of stagnation in the production of combines, because there were not enough adequate motors in Rumanian. The German Opel /Oppel ?/ motors which had been used for the first combines quickly ran out, and there was no means of getting others. So the Ministry had to change its production plan and place orders, in what country [ ] for gasoline motors. These were more easily adaptable for use in Rumania.

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10. "During 1951, the Vasile Roaita Shops had to be greatly enlarged. This enterprise is among the most important in the country. The Collective worked for some time drawing up new plans which were sent to the Ministry, and the Ministry approved the necessary plans for enlarging the plant. According to these plans, there will be new buildings constructed with special shops for lathes, casting, etc. These shops are desperately needed with the increase in production demands since the days of the old Vainea plant. In 1951-1954 these shops will become much more modern and productive.

#### Management

11. The Vasile Roaita Shops come under the Ministry of Heavy Industry. There are many management channels, but, according to the present organization, the final word is held jointly by the manager and the chief engineer. Under the Communist regime, the manager is always one of the workers. [ ] first there (1950), the manager was /Inu/ Naghi who had been a locksmith and lathe operator, and was a very capable man. [ ] he later went to manage the Vulcan shops in Bucharest. He was replaced by another worker, /Inu/ Ghiata. The manager signed all official papers, made important decisions concerning the factory and work to be done, but he did not meddle with the Cadres or the Party. There was an assistant manager who was changed or replaced frequently. The last assistant manager [ ] was /Inu/ Brohui. The chief engineer had formerly been co-owner of the Lemaitre Works in Budapest. [ ] he was the son-in-law of the former Belgian Consul. A very good specialist, and a most capable man, he stayed because of his knowledge. He was irreplaceable. He used, personally, to study the problems of the factory, and he often intervened in difficulties on behalf of the workmen. He had a feeling for work and for machines. On Saturday when there was an urgent need to fill a production demand, [ ] all asked to work Sunday, but when the next day came, only a few men appeared. The manager and the chief engineer worked with us, and even did the carrying in the absence of any porters.

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#### Shifts, Meetings, etc.

12. "Vasile Roaita worked three shifts (schimburi). [ ] worked eight hours a day. [ ] work at seven in the morning, had an hour for lunch from 12 to 1, and worked again until four in the afternoon. Very often meetings were scheduled for the afternoon. Two or three meetings were held every week, and sometimes, but not often, four or five were held. A meeting was rarely planned for all the workers at once, but it was conducted in a small group, and the workers would be 'stimulated', and would not sleep during the meeting. Group meetings were held for criticism and self-criticism, and were called production meetings (sedinte de productie). They usually included a public debate on the trade plan.

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13. "In 1951, the famous Stakhanovite Inu/Bykov visited Vasile Roaita. [ ] had been told he would demonstrate [ ] his special method of lathe operation. Three lathes had been prepared for him. [ ] Soviet lathes at the factory, but they were not of good quality, so two of the Swedish pre-war lathes, and one German, Marston-type, pre-war lathe were prepared. When Bykov arrived amidst great excitement, he spent a long time in the chief engineer's office, and then came into the shop with some union officials and an interpreter. Work had previously been stopped so that the workers might witness his demonstration, but Bykov merely passed near the machines, looking at them. He did not even touch the lathes. He gave explanations to brother lathe-operators, and then he talked a while with the foreman. Besides the three lathes prepared for him, a Bohwerk (general drilling machine) had been prepared. It was a German machine, but produced in the USSR. He said to the foreman: 'You can have confidence in this machine. I am well acquainted with it. It works well.' Then he left our lathe shop. From Bucharest, he went to Brasov where he visited the Stengul Roaita plant, on the Strungul lathe plant.

#### 14. Personnel

The Vasile Roaita shops employ about 2000 workers. Sometimes there are only 1800 or 1900, because some of the work is seasonal. The workmen were divided among five sections: smelting, casting; turning shops, metal working (the largest number of workers were here); assembling; carpentry; and mechanics (keeping equipment in good repair). Women totalled 15 to 20 percent of the workers. They were paid the same wages, for the same work, as the men, and no wage distinction existed between single or married women. Women workers produced very well in certain sections, and there were many who became Stakhanovites. There were even a few women Stakhanovites in the iron workshops, but only a few because this kind of work was hard for women. There were five or ten male workers younger than 18 (they were 16 or 17). The law states that a factory worker under 18 may only work six hours a day, but must be paid for an eight-hour day. Sometimes children of 15, 16, or 17, sons of farmers or workers, came to the factory saying that they had a right to work - as did everyone in the RFR, and if they made enough of an uproar, they were often hired (if needed). Other young workers at Vasile Roaita were the apprentices, or students from the Schools for Reserve Workers, of which there are several in the country. These youths study during the scholastic year, and when they have completed their course they are sent to factories, shops or yards. During the summer Vasile Roaita usually got 50 to 100 of these students, depending upon the work plan and number of students available. Among the Vasile Roaita employees were many Rumanian-born Hungarians. There were two Soviets there during [ ] or they formerly may have been Bosnians.

#### Wages

15. Wages of workers are divided by categories, and then grades [sic].:

- Category I: 17 lei before January 1957, presently 0.95 bani, per hour.
- Category II: 19.50 lei before January 1957, presently 0.99 bani per hour.
- Category III: 24 lei before January 1957, presently 1.15 bani per hour.
- Category IV: 26 lei before January 1957, presently 1.20 bani per hour.

There were seven categories in all; each category is divided into steps: I, II, III, etc., for those working with gases, in the heat, in offices, and so forth. Wages were scaled to work actually performed. Stakhanovites and production leaders received nothing extra for holding these titles, but they received in addition to their normal wage exactly the amount by which they surpassed the work norms. Working hours per month were calculated at 208, on the basis of 5 lunar days and Sundays off. [ ] 300 new lei (previously 6,000 lei per month), which represents an average salary in Rumania today, but which is actually very low in terms of the cost of living. Workers either worked longer than the prescribed eight-hour day or strove for additional output; and some made 600 to 700 lei per month. On the other hand, though, they did not dare to make really serious efforts, for fear that the norm-setters and

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unions would raise the norms for the following year, which could only have required of each worker substantially greater effort with no increase in pay. The workers were generally dissatisfied with their wages: they wanted to work more, to earn more for their families, but they were afraid to. Therefore, they had to be content with medium wages, and to say that they were content. Those working in the smelting section were better paid, for smelting was at the top of the scale. But even they complained about their wages. So they were admonished by Vasile Paraschiv, Secretary of the Party Committee for Plants, who said: 'You do not have a right to complain, for you receive a good wage. Look at the workers who work eight hours as you do, and receive less because they are in a lower category.' And the workers were satisfied in appearance. But among friends they murmured constantly, for living was hard and dear.

16. "Wages were paid twice a month at Vasile Roaita. The rates fixed were as follows:

On the 2nd of the month (July, for instance) one received an advance for the current month (July, in this case):

On the 8th of the following month, (August), one received his wages (the rest of his wages for July).

25X1X This was done [ ] so as not to give the workmen a large sum at any given time, although 350-400 present lei would hardly be considered a large sum; and so as to keep them unable to make financial plans for their families, or for the coming month. (For if they could do this, they would begin to think independently, as men detached from the shops, the Party, etc.) Not only the workers, but the officials, everyone under the State and the Party, were paid in this way. Not all plants, however, paid at the same time. Other factories paid on the 25th and 5th, for example, or the 20th and the 7th. This was done to space the work in the Finance Administrations, and in the offices of the Finance Ministry.

#### "Factory Cadres Organization"

17. "The Chief of Cadres at Vasile Roaita has been, from the beginning, Constantin Marinescu, [ ] whether or not he was originally a worker, but he was 25X1X 35 years old in 1952, and married early in that year. A woman worker [ ] 25X1X knew, before he himself did, whom he would marry. A wife had been chosen for him by the Party, and he had to accept her. 25X1X His wife worked in the cadres office too. She was a secretary in his office, a person known and approved by the Party and by the High Cadres. But in accordance with the present laws in Rumania, members of the same family were not permitted to work in the same office. So Mrs. Marinescu was sent to the 25X1X production office. [ ]

18. "In 1951 it was decided by the Party that foreign subjects living in the RFR could not 'enter into production'. This meant, actually, that they could not be employed anywhere to 'produce', and, therefore, could not earn a living. However, this law, or decision, was not made public, and neither cadres, personnel nor management made it known openly, because such a policy would have been contrary to the RFR guarantees of the right to work, irregardless of race, religion, etc. But the cadres have their instructions, and foreigners are often removed from 'production' under other pretexts, such as being taxed as 'imperialist', 'reactionary', 'capitalist', etc. Bureaucracy exists in the cadres too, though 'bureaucrats' are attacked daily. A worker comes from elsewhere in the country, or from another factory and wants a job, even if all his credentials are in order, he is told that the personnel roster is filled, but to come back in a week. (This takes place at the cadres, not the personnel office); meanwhile the worker is investigated by the police, and the following week he can, or cannot, be employed. The cadres makes the final decision on promotions for workers, and hire the seasonal labor as well as the wage-earning workers. They can hire masons, for instance, arbitrarily and according to the need, but for other special jobs, investigations are made.

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19. The cadres issued daily bread coupons to the day-laborers, and issued monthly bread coupons to the wage-earning employees.
20. Though the cadres concerns itself with personnel, its primary personnel concern is from the point of view of politics, thought, words, observations, dissatisfied personnel, family social origins, etc. There is still in this plant, as elsewhere, a Personnel Service which determines who is absent and who present. The Ministry requires the office to prepare daily lists of attendance.

#### Party Committee

21. The members of the Party Committee are not permanent, but change from time to time. The committee is composed of a President, a Secretary, and three or four members who are regular workers. They are all paid by the Party for this committee work. [redacted] The Secretary, in 1952, was Vasile Paraschiv. He was [redacted] or 48 years old. Before he took this post he had been in charge of lubricants and oils in the plant, and had been in charge of the firewood for the shops. [redacted] owned a tavern from which he earned a substantial amount of money, but the tavern was in his wife's name, so appearances were preserved.

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22. The Party Committee was concerned with production and worker morale. It was this committee which studied production, high or low, for the Party, not for the Ministry. The reports of the committee were sent to the Party, but perhaps the Ministry saw certain things too. The manager and chief engineer 'stood at attention' before the Party Committee. Serious worker or union complaints went to the Party Committee. Occurrences of theft, sabotage, shortages of material, deterioration of material, etc., were investigated by the Party Committee which decided who was to be punished. The committee had its spies and informers among the workers; they were [redacted], but [redacted] of their existence, and behaved accordingly. The committee decided who was to take the guard duty in the factory on election days, and when the duty fell to this or that worker, he could not disobey. The Party Committee made decisions on changes and transfers of workers as proposed by the Committee on Industry.

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#### The Committee on Industry

23. This committee was also at the Vasile Paraschiv factory, but [redacted] exactly what its strength, function or competence were. [redacted] only one incident which involved the Committee on Industry: some foremen who wanted to have six or seven workers transferred to another section, went to the Committee on Industry to sign and examine the transfer papers before a final decision by the Party Committee. These foremen went discreetly to several offices and floors trying to discover who the members of the Committee on Industry were. After much loss of time, it appeared that the Committee members were their own colleagues. The members had never mentioned their connection with the Committee on Industry, because none of them accorded any importance to it. The 'enlightenment' work, which was supposed to precede each step for the Rumanian worker had, obviously, not been carried out.

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The Union

24. The union was concerned with raising production through 'Socialist Competitions' /intreceri socialiste/. It represented the factory, and 'the factory belongs to the workers' (which is why the workers were obliged to pay the cost of repairing the factory). The union has a President and a Secretary, who are frequently changed, and seven or eight worker members. Union members work for the union after their regular hours, and are paid separately for this. In an urgent case, they are called from their work. Certain of the members work with the 'Socialist Competitions', certain with workers' social insurance, others with production problems such as reduction of costs, etc. - The union, as such, belongs to the Metallo-chemical Unions of the 23 August district. (Raion 23 August is one of the administrative districts set up by the Communists.) Among the metallo-chemical unions of this district were those of: Alexe, Vasile Rosita, and Radio-Popular (formerly Philipps factory at Bucharest, now nationalized). The Metallo-chemical unions of our district formed the Federation of Metallo-chemical unions of Bucharest, which, in turn, for part of the Union of Metallo-chemical Unions of the whole RPR. Each worker was obliged to participate in the union, but probably would have anyway, because offered food, clothing, and leave benefits, etc. The great majority of union members, the laboring mass of Vasile Rosita, were not members of the Communist Party. Of some 2000 workers scarcely 50 or 60 were Party members. A union member must take part in union meetings, pay the union levy of one percent of monthly wages, with possible increases for passing the quotas. This one percent was not withheld from wages; [redacted] and then stayed at the pay window to pay the union percentage.
25. The union is divided into sections and, then, into Groups. Each Group has its President, Secretary and six members who are concerned with levies, social insurance, etc., of their own Group. 'Socialist Competitions' were conducted by Groups, by sections, by factories, etc. The workmen and officials challenged each other to increased work, as one would challenge to a duel. But competitions were not conducted for work alone: they were held for all kinds of nonsense. For example, a 'Socialist Competition' might be presented on the basis of the following pledges: 'I undertake to hold to the schedule of operations; [redacted] promise to be on time with quotas', etc. The workers undertake, in these competitions, to surpass their daily quota by 70 or 80 percent. But if a worker spoils material, causing it to be scrapped, he has to pay for it from his wages.

Union Meetings

26. Meetings were announced the preceding day on a large black-board at the entrance gate. No worker could say that he did not know about it. Sometimes, for questions of lesser importance, meetings were called by work group, but they were always considered to be obligatory union meetings. There were also 'lightning meetings', which were almost always held for protesting 'American Imperialists' or the 'war makers'. These meetings were announced five or ten minutes in advance by someone who entered the shop in a whirlwind to inform the workers of the meeting. [redacted] assembled silently and bored, and were told what the meeting was about. A protest telegram, sent to the UN or the French Government, was usually read. Workers were not asked to pay for the telegrams. The meetings often lasted many hours, sometimes causing workers to bypass meal. But there was nothing to do about them: one simply had to attend.

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Canteen

27. The plant had a canteen, but the workers were not obliged to eat there; a large number of workers did not use the canteen, but officials and management personnel all ate there. In the winter more workers used it than in the summer, as traveling was more difficult during winter months. (In summer the work day was 6 AM to 2 PM; in winter it was 7 AM to 4 PM, with a rest for lunch.) Table tickets were sold either by the day, or for several days. The cost of a table ticket [redacted] the day, was 24 lei, 2 bani (24 lei before the monetary reform). The menu at noon consisted of a broth of beef bones, with beans and potatoes, and some kind of blate. Meat was supposed to be served three times a week, but actually twice a week was high, for meat was, and is, hard to find in Bucharest. A commission was established for the canteen consisting of workers who were not put in by the Party. This commission made out the weekly menu, which was occasionally changed. Food was relatively good, precisely because of this direct participation by non-Communist workers in the affair. There was an advantage to be gained by eating once a day (at noon) in the canteen, because one received a quarter of bread at this meal without using his bread coupon, which could therefore be used in town at home. If one ate at the canteen in the evening also, his bread coupon was taken. In general, there were scarcely 20 workers in the canteen at night. Usually the food was the same as had been served at lunch. (At noon, only about 30 to 40 percent of the workers used the canteen.) Usually table tickets were purchased for two weeks on the day after pay day.

Sports, library, etc.

28. VASILE ROSSICU, like every large plant, had sports team, supported by the factory itself, not by worker contributions or wage withholdings. Sports were well-developed. The young and old alike were grouped each day by the GMA (Gata Pentru Munca Si Apararea Patriei - Ready for Work and the Defense of the Fatherland). The factory had a football, volleyball and alpine team. The workers had one football team, the apprentices another. An attempt was made once to include the older men in the football competitions. They all appeared for the first game, dressed but totally unenthusiastic. They deliberately made no effort to score. The team was 're-enlightened', and sent out for another try some days later. The second time a worker kicked a foreman, fracturing his foot. No one ever knew whether or not this had been intentional, but the games for older men were suspended. Some inter-factory competitions were arranged for football and volleyball teams, and for the alpine team as well.

29. Mount climbing is well developed in Rumania. One can take part in it regardless of his affiliations. Trails are well marked, and cabins well provisioned, though cabins built in recent years are used only by 'their own' [sic]. [redacted]

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30. In the Vasile Rossicu Workers' Clubroom there was a stage where the workmen the theatre group acted Soviet or Rumanian plays, and where the national dance and music groups presented rather successful productions. There was also a library with 2000 volumes, magazines and newspapers. The books were all technical books in Russian or Rumanian. The magazines were also technical or cultural in their general nature. Technical books were not allowed to be taken home. Each section of the shop had its own little library too. There were usually 60 to 100 books in the section libraries. They were technical books and read by only a few of the more zealous workers after work. Party

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activists within the shops made note of those who read the books. Free pamphlets were distributed to the workmen. For example, the pamphlet on the Bykov-Bortkievich or Antonia Jandarova methods were given out. They were taken home, but generally not read.

31. "Films were shown every month or two. They were Soviet films translated into Rumanian, showing life in the factories and shops which were 'the largest and most advanced in the world'.
32. "The Wall Gazettes were published by a 'collective' of the Wall Gazette, composed of six workmen, active on the union rolls and in the UTM. The work was considered honorary, and therefore was unpaid. This newspaper of shop life is written in a single copy, by hand, or on a typewriter. Another, similar, publication was the Gazeta Tineretului (Youth Gazette).
33. "Vasile Roaita had a 'Red Corner' as did other factories, schools and institutions. There was a 'Red Corner' in each shop - a pane which had two or three articles from Scanteia or Pravda, red-drape photos of Russo-Rumanian Communist leaders or Stakhenovites, two or three circulars, and a small reading table for propaganda publications. Everything was painted red. We also had a 'Moscow Corner' - but only in the machine section."

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Enclosures: A: Sketch-map showing buildings of Vasile Roaita Shops in Bucharest, with legend.

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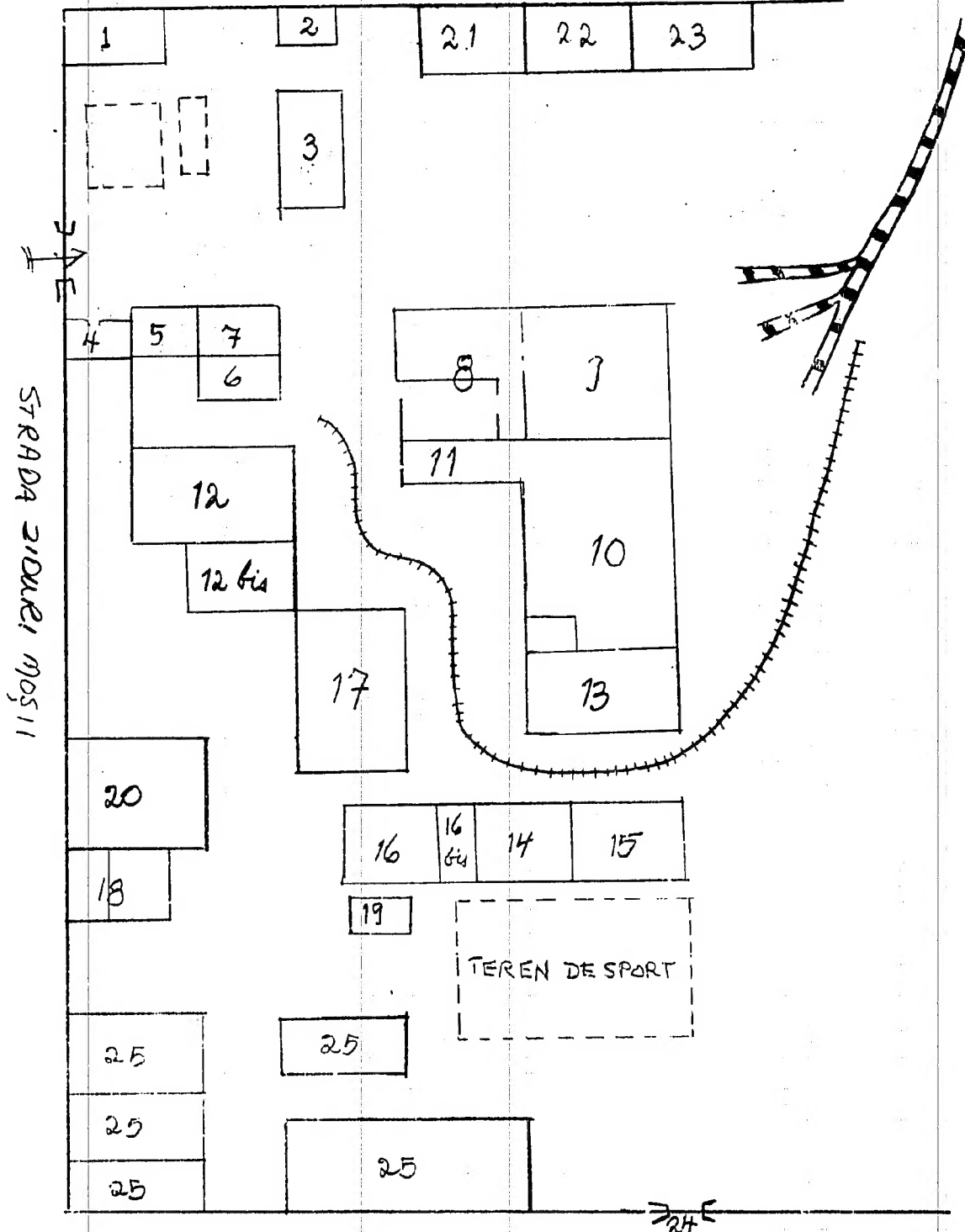
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(Enclosure A:)

# VASILE ROAITA WORKS

FABRICA DE APARATAJ ELECTRIC "ANDREI PROT."



GRADINA HELIADE

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ENCLOSURE (1)  
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Legend, Enclosure (1) Sketch-map of Vasile Rostu Works, showing buildings.

1. Accounting department
2. Dairy
3. Garage
4. Time-keeping office
5. Time-keeping office for those who work 'in harmony'. The militia is also located here.
6. Chief engineer's office; Technical staff's office, cadres office
7. Manager's office
8. Heavy turners' shop
9. Shop for precision turners
10. Assembly shop for threshing machines.
11. Sanding shop
12. Foundry
13. bis. Foundry, and assembly equipment shop
14. Forge
15. Tool shop
16. Press
17. Washroom for workmen
18. bis. Pilot plant
19. Wheel manufacture shop
20. Factory Fire Department
21. Dispensary
22. Building for transformers
23. Gate
24. Room for breaking castings
25. Welding and assembly shop, and lock shop.
- Under No. 26. Warehouse
- Between No. 27 and 28. Cutting shop
29. Repairs garage; militia quarters
30. Trikorzi factory buildings: assembly and carpentry shops.

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